RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

April, 1997

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

JERSEY CITY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

RNA has invited three of the four mayoral candidates to speak at our April 8th meeting. Mayor **Bret Schundler** and candidates **Gerald McCann** and **Jaime Vasquez** have agreed to come and talk to our community. [Previously, mayoral candidate Jerramiah Healy spoke at our March meeting.] In addition, each candidate is invited to bring their team's council candidates for Wards C and D. The format for this meeting will be informal get-to-know sessions where each candidate will be asked to make a 10 minute presentation and then answer questions from our membership.

To make these meetings productive, RNA requests that each member prepare several questions for each candidate about local problems or issues.

ELECTION DEBATES IN THE HEIGHTS:

The Heights Coalition of Neighborhood and Block Associations is organizing the following three debates for the citizens of the Heights:

Mayoral debate: Sunday, April 27.
Ward C council debate: Sunday, April13.
Ward D council debate: Sunday April 20.

All these events will be held in the Community Center at Pershing Field, located between Summit and Manhattan Avenues. They will begin promptly at 2:30 PM.

School Board Elections

In the midst of our municipal government elections, there is another election that is just as important. That is the election for representatives of the Jersey City School Board. At present, the Board of Education is still under state control and the Board's actions can be vetoed by the Superintendent.

However, it is imperative that we as citizens make sure that local politics does not creep back into the school system. We as a City must make sure that the state knows what we expect and demand for our children's educations. GET OUT AND VOTE ON APRIL 15th for our children's future. Vote at the same polling location as the regular elections.

RNA ELECTIONS

Because of the crowded agenda for the April RNA meeting, it has been suggested that the RNA annual elections for executive officers be postponed till the next meeting. This adjournment is being suggested to allow the membership a chance to vote for their officers without pressure.

Therefore, a motion will be made at the beginning of the April meeting to postpone the RNA elections till May. If the motion is not passed by the membership, the election will be held at the end of the April meeting.

[A list of the candidates presently nominated for the positions of Chair, Vice-chiar, Sectretary, Tresurer and Sgt. at Arms is on page 3 of this newsletter.]

RNA ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

RNA will hold its 13th annual flea market on Saturday, June 7th. On the following page, we have included a vendor's contract and information about this event.

RNA table to sell donated items: Please look around your home or apartment for various items that you are not using or not in need of anymore. All items, including clothing, should be in fairly good condition. Please bring these items to the RNA Table, which will be located north of the park pavilion, the morning of the flea market.

Coffee and cake table: Although homemade goods are preferred, there may be some who cannot bake, so we will also be accepting store-bought items. These bakery products should be brought to the coffee table the morning of the flea market. Please use disposable pans or plates as it is hard to keep a record of whose property must be returned.

Plant table: RNA will sell plants and flowers for our Park fund. We need contributions of empty pots and containers as well different plants and flowers to put in them.

If people have would like to volunteer to help at any of these tables, please fill out the form below and return to **Valerie Rea at 220 Ogen Avenue**:

NAME: _____

TELPHONE: _____

DONATE OR BAKE: _____

VOLUNTEER ON DAY of EVENT: _____

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL RNA FLEA MARKET
VENDOR CONTRACT

SPONSOR: RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1997
(RAINDATE: JUNE 14, 1997)

LOCATION: RIVERVIEW - FISK PARK
Ogden & Palisade Avenues, between Griffith & Bowers Streets,
JERSEY CITY HEIGHTS

TIME: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Dealers may arrive anytime after 7:00 AM.)

RATE: **$15.00 PER SPACE** when paid in advance.
$20.00 PER SPACE if paid on day of event.
(MEMBERS: $10.00 and $15.00 per space accordingly.)

RULES:

1) Vendors must supply their own tables and chairs.
2) Position of spaces on day of event will be on a first come, first serve basis.
3) Food can only be sold by authorized food vendors. No vendor will sell anything obscene or illegal. (See registration form below.)
4) **Vendors must clean-up their spaces at the end of the day. Vendors cannot leave unsold or leftover items in the Park.**
5) Vendors will be allowed to unload and load their vehicles at the site, but **auto access to Ogden Avenue will cease at 9:00 AM**.
6) These rules will be strictly enforced by RNA on the day of the event.
7) Reservations must be postmarked no later then June 1, 1997.

ADVERTISING: RNA will advertise in the Jersey Journal, the Jersey City Reporter and by posters and flyers.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL: PATRICK MOORE (201) 792-9390.

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
THIRTEENTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET
REGISTRATION FORM

DATE: **SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1997**
TIME: **9 AM TO 4 PM**
PLACE: **RIVERVIEW - FISK PARK**
(RAINDATE: JUNE 14, 1997)

PLEASE RESERVE: _____SPACES AT $10.00 or 15.00 per SPACE. (circle one)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $_____.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Telephone No. _____

By participating as a seller in the RNA Flea Market, I agree not to sell any food items, pornographic or obscene material or drug paraphernalia. If I violate this agreement, I will forfeit my right to participate and leave the flea market.

Signature :_____

Make checks payable to RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.
Cut out this application and send to **ERNEST QUINTERO, 187 Ogden Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07307**

RNA COMMUNITY GARDENS

Riverview Community Garden officially opens for the 1997 growing season on Saturday April 12 when there will be a spring clean-up from 10 AM to 12 noon. Volunteers are needed to help clean and organize the vegetable and flower gardens for the coming season.

Like last year, garden space will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. Garden plots are available to anyone who lives in the area and agrees to maintain their space for the entire season.

Gate keys will be issued to all gardeners and there is no fee or charge for use of the space. There are only two rules in the garden:

1) No dogs allowed.
2) Don't climb the fence.

Anyone who wants space should come to the garden on any Saturday around 12 noon where a member of the RNA Park Committee will be on hand to assign spaces and answer questions. Donations of plants or gardening supplies would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are also needed to help maintain the three flower gardens in the Park. Volunteering could mean pulling weeds once for half an hour, or it could mean "adopting" a space and caring for it all season. For instance, we are looking for a volunteer to keep the space closest to the Community Garden weed free all season. This space has over 20 varieties of perennial flowers that will bloom throughout the season.

As most people who live here already know, crime is worse than ever. Yet last summer the Park was safer and cleaner than it has been in years. This is no accident. League basketball, the Community Garden, and the Bocci Ball court were all factors in starting the positive momentum we now see. Come out this season and grow some flowers or vegetables in the Community Garden and help keep the momentum going. Riverview-Fisk Park has the potential to be the safest and most beautiful park in Jersey City. See you in the Garden.

NEW TREES TO BE PLANTED IN AND AROUND PARK

The Department of Public Works has agreed to replace the trees that have died and been removed in Riverview-Fisk Park and in the curb cuts on both Palisade and Ogden Avenues surrounding the Park. There are about ten trees that need to be replaced. Director Kevin Sluka has asked that RNA choose trees from the "clean and green initiative" list which includes: Kwanzan Cherry, Scarlet Oak, Red Oak, Run Sunset Maple, October Glory Maple, American Sweetgum, European Hornbeam and Littleleaf Linden.

In addition, DPW will help in the second planting of our Palisade Treescape Program this year. If interested, please contact RNA about having a free tree planted in front of your Palisade Avenue property.

Greg Brickey

MEETING MINUTES: March 11, 1997

RNA ELECTIONS: The meeting began with the reopening of nominations for executive officers; nominations will remain open until the election, which will be held at the April meeting. There are five positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Sgt. at Arms.

To vote, one must be 18 or older, reside or own property within the RNA boundaries (Palisade Avenue to Ogden Avenue, Cuneo Place to Congress Street), and be a dues-paid member of RNA. Officers must be members as well.

Currently the nominations are:

a) Chair: **Vito Brunetti, Greg Brickey**
b) Vice Chair: **Allison Ferrari-Fontana, Greg Brickey, Maria Tuzzo**
c) Treasurer: **Jack Rea, Ernest Quintero**
d) Secretary: **Maria Tuzzo, Allison Ferrari-Fontana, Marcella Williams**
e) Sgt. at Arms: **Carol Rebelowski**

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK FORCE (NTF) POLICE: **Officers Scott Schnee and Lorenzo Tosado** gave an update on local police matters. The police have been enforcing the dog leash laws, and have impounded two pit bulls found running loose. A recent shooting (not fatal) at Palisade & Hutton is still under investigation.

A RNA member complained that large groups of teens were seen gathering in the Park in the evenings; however, the officers pointed out that the Park does not officially close until 10 PM. There was another complaint that drug and prostitution activities were becoming more frequent during the daytime and late at night - before and after the NTF Police shift. The shifts are now 3 PM to 11 PM, but will likely change to later hours in the summer. The officers pointed out that the RNA area has NTF Police coverage of at least one officer, and at times as many as five officers, seven days a week.

MAYORAL CANDIDATES: City Council member and Mayoral candidate **Jaime Vasquez** was invited to this meeting but did not show up. [The following day, RNA received a telephone call from Mr. Vasquez explaining that he had a family emergency and was unable to attend. He stated he would like to come to the next meeting. He was invited as a quest for the April meeting.]

Mayoral candidate **Jerramiah Healy** spoke to the group about his candidacy. Mr. Healy spoke about his background and career history, which has been in the law enforcement field, including positions as investigator, prosecutor, trial lawyer, and most recently chief judge in Jersey City's Municipal Court. Discontent with the current administration, Healy resigned his post as chief judge to run for mayor. The major issues of his campaign were crime and taxes.

In a question and answer session, Mr. Healy took comments from the RNA members:

1) Regarding Jersey City's proposed sale of Cochran Field to the JC Board of Education, Mr. Healy

said that the $9 million sales price, to address city budget shortfalls, is not an effective means of solving the problem. This sale is pending approval by the Jersey City city council, and by the NJ Board of Education.

2) When asked about the NID program, Mr. Healy said he would have to look at the program. He views the NID managers as city-paid campaign managers for Mayor Schundler. He was also skeptical about the effectiveness of the mayor's Constituent Services department.

3) Asked how he would improve crime fighting in the city, Mr. Healy stressed leadership in the police department. He said that Mayor Schundler's choice for the Police Director was an out-of-towner with little law enforcement background.

4) Asked about how he might address the budgetary problems, Healy said that he has a team of financial experts working on a 5 year plan to bring ratables and investment to Jersey City. This plan should be completed by the end of March, and available in early April.

5) Asked to compare his candidacy with that of candidates Vasquez and McCann, Mr. Healy said that Vasquez, as a councilman, has not brought any solutions to the table. About McCann, he said that a convicted felon would be a liability to obtaining federal, state, and private funds for the City.

6) Responding to Mr. Healy's earlier statement that the St. Patrick's parade committee had been stacked with NID employees to influence the voting for several honorary titles, one of the local NID managers pointed out that the committee consisted on 126 members, only 12 of which were from the NID.

7) Asked what local attention the RNA area might expect if Healy were elected, he pointed out that CDBG funds are allocated per income, and that this area would not get funds from that source. He recommended neighborhood activism, working with the city and private industry.

8) Asked to assess the state of RNA's neighborhood, Healy observed that this area was in bad shape in the 1970s, revitalized in the 1980s, and was now again in decline. He sees law enforcement as a problem, caused by lack of leadership in the police department. He also sees layoffs in city agencies, such as housing code enforcement, as contributing to the decline.

NID REPORT: The NID teams covering RNA's neighborhood spoke about their activities and took comments and questions from the RNA members. Present were **NID supervisor Jean Handlowitch, NID manager Ufredo Merchan** and his **code enforcement officer Larry Wilson** (who will soon be leaving to take an NID manager slot in another neighborhood), **NID manager Billy Rodolfos and his code enforcement officer Carol Pasquale.**

Dog patrols - to catch owners who don't clean up after their dogs - have been conducted in morning hours. The NID can now issue summonses to offenders.

Holland Street has been blocked off for safety concerns, awaiting county inspection of the Ogden Avenue bridge at the corner of Bowers Street. During a recent cleanup activity, NID manager Billy Rodolfos observed large cracks in the underside of the concrete arch bridge. He was concerned that debris could fall onto passing vehicles and pedestrians.

The NID has been involved in several area projects, including the cleaning of storm sewers and catch basins, pot hole repair, sidewalk repair, tree trimming.

A complaint was made regarding the chain link fence at the SE corner of Ogden and Bowers (near the Ogden bridge over Holland St.). The fence has been repeatedly removed by persons unknown, and repaired by several RNA members. Billy asked RNA to stop repairing it, so that the City could see the damage. RNA has asked for a more permanent and effective solution.

RNA requested the NID to barricade the abandoned garage on Paterson Plank Rd, where dumping occurs on a regular basis.

Several sidewalk floodlights were reported out on Palisade, between Ferry & Griffith.

A garbage problem was (again) reported at 202-204 Ogden on the NE corner of Ogden and Franklin; containers are present but the building residents do not make use of them and instead dump the garbage on the sidewalk.

A loose white pit bull has been observed on Ogden Ave, believed to belong to residents living at 202-204 Ogden Avenue.

RNA requested that the pavilion in Riverview Park be painted to remove graffiti, preferably before the spring flea market.

Ufredo and Billy have compiled a vacant property list for the area, including:

a) **439 Palisade** - in foreclosure, may be sold within a month;

b) **building at the corner of NY Ave & Griffith St.** - sold, new owner will fix up;

c) **438 Palisade** - City is considering whether to demolish it;

d) **381 Ogden** - owner is in court on nuisance charges (for 6 months now); taxes are paid to date, as are fines for health violations; property is listed for sale with a Realtor for $65,000; and

e) **385 Ogden** - Breen Realty is actively foreclosing (but its a 2 year process); priced at $44,000.

[233 Ogden - this building has been abandoned for over six months but it is not even on the city's Abandoned Buildings Department list and it is not boarded up.]

FLEA MARKET: The dates chosen for the annual flea market will be June 7, with June 14 for a rain date. Table rates will be up to the committee to set and published in the next newsletter. Committee will meet on March 24th.

Cathy Packard, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The cost of RNA's annual membership is $5 per person. Membership entitles you to nine issues of our newsletter, and voting privileges in RNA, if you live within the boundaries. Please support your community by paying your dues at the next meeting, or sending a check, payable to RNA, to 232 Ogden Avenue. (Any paid member who has not received their newsletters or a membership card, contact Jack Rea.)

UPDATE: Christ Hospital's Family Clinic

RNA has not experienced any traffic or parking problems since the opening of Christ Hospital's Family Clinic on Palisade Avenue. However, that may all soon change. At a recent meeting of community leaders and Hospital officials, President Don Connell stated that the clinic has not been operating on a full schedule since it opened last year. However, as of April 7, 1997 Doctor Steven Levine will become the clinic's Director. Besides maintaining an office for his own patients, Dr. Levine will supervise other doctors doing their residencies at the clinic. This new schedule will include evenings and weekend appointments.

Mr. Connell has been invited to a future meeting to discuss the clinic and other Hospital plans in our community.

NID PROGRESS REPORT

[Each month RNA will publish the projects that our Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) Managers, Ufredo Merchan and Billy Rodolfos are working on.]

BILLY RODOLFOS (North-7):

Some work orders that were completed this month:

1) 390 New York Avenue: the old Full Moon Saloon's yard was cleaned out;

2) 593 Palisade Avenue: the old Exxon gas station was cleaned out again;

3) 86-88 South Street was boarded up and the grates in the yard were filled with cement and dirt to keep out unwanted guests;

4) 179 Hancock Avenue: P.S. #28's parking lot has been a dog dumping area. I have cleaned it out with the high school kids and have been monitoring it to try and catch the offenders;

5) I had a meeting with Brian Henry to get information on all the abandoned buildings in my area. [See the list in the Minutes.]

My CEO Carroll Pasquale has issued 3 summonses this month.

CALL YOUR NID MANAGERS

Tell them about any problem or complaint in your neighborhood or a suggestion to improve it.

Billy Rodolfos, whose NID includes Ogden and Palisade north of Griffith Street, can be reached through his voice mail at **547-4974, EXT. 8021.**

Ufredo Merchan, whose NID includes Ogden and Palisade south of Griffith, can be reached at his voice mail, **547-4974, EXT. 8015.**

Remember, the NID can only be effective if you inform them of the local problems. Get to know them and as important, let them get to know you and your neighbors.

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Drop off articles, comments and/or recipes in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Ave. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTER." The next deadline is **Friday, April 25, 1997.**

I Remember Mama

With Easter approaching, I can remember growing up as a child and getting all prepared for this holiday . We were eight children, and it seemed Mama relied on a select few. The girls of course, were busy getting the house in order - after a dark and dull winter, the house needed a sparkle clean look.

Mama started about two weeks before Easter time preparing for the holiday. She would make all her Italian cookies the week before and also prepared the sweet liquors because most people made their own sweet wines years ago.

Palm Sunday was also considered a holiday and had special meals, and we made little palm crosses to wear. Mama would also get in touch with the priest to have the house blessed.

Easter Sunday morning, Mama would be very busy in the kitchen preparing all the ingredients for the traditional meat pie. I think it was called pizza rustica or rustic pie. This tradition started in Europe and was carried over to the United States with our forefathers.I could never wait until this pie was ready to eat. That was because it was only made traditionally at Easter time.

Jack Rea

RECYCLE: IT'S THE LAW!

Here is the official list of recyclable materials that are collected in our neighborhood every WEDNESDAY:

PAPER: NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, CARDBOARD, BOXES, MAIL, PAPER, TELEPHONE BOOKS
PLASTICS: BOTTLES, MILK CONTAINERS, WATER CONTAINERS, FOOD BOTTLES
GLASS: SODA or BEER BOTTLES, JARS
CANS: ALUMINUM, TIN, STEEL (NO CHEMICAL OR PAINT CANS).

Remember, paper products should be separate but glass, plastic, and metal can be grouped together. For more information, call the Incinerator Authority at 432-4645.]

HUDSON COUNTY ANIMAL LEAGUE

P.O. Box 3589, Jersey City, N.J. 07303
(201) 200-1008

The League needs your help. Here are some of the things you can do to help our four-footed friends:

a) Donate money.
b) Donate time.
c) Foster a cat or dog in need.
d) Donate pet and office supplies.
e) Adopt from the League.
f) Have your pet spayed or neutered.
g) Attend a League Meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Pershing Field Community Center .

At the very least, mail the enclosed postcard to the Mayor and let him know how you feel about this problem.

Bulletin board

Godzilla in the Park

Recently a New York based film production company has been handing out flyers and scouting locations in our neighborhood. RNA was informed that the company is making a science fiction motion picture about Godzilla in New York. Shooting is planned in Riverview-Fisk Park during several evenings in late April or early May. The company is also looking for available apartments to do exterior and interior shooting.

Anyone interested in participating in this project, should call **Greg Rott** of the **Locations Department at FIN Productions at 212-541-6295**. RNA has invited Mr. Rott to come to one of our meetings to discuss this project.

Anyone considering getting involved with this project should first call either Sgt. Whelan of the North Police District or Jodi Drennan of the Mayor's office (547-5200) to confirm this information. In additrion, anyone participating should require a fee for use of their property and evidence of insurance to protect against any damage.

From Valerie's Kitchen:

One Dish Chicken & Rice Bake

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can (10 3/4 oz.) Campbells Fat-Free Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1 cup water
- 3/4 cup uncooked regular white rice
- 1/4 tsp. paprika
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

1) Mix soup, water, rice and spices and place in a shallow baking dish.
2) Place chicken on top of rice mixture.
3) Sprinkle with additional spices.
4) Cover and bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes - until chicken and rice are done. Serves 4.

April

April Showers bring May Flowers,
And theTax Man Cometh,
Spring is in the air, Spring is everywhere -
Birds chirping, Flowers blooming,
Happy spring!

Madeline Rea

Recycle this Newsletter
Pass it on to a friend

POLICEBEAT

Residents should contact their **Neighborhood Task Force Police Officers Scott Schnee and Lorenzo Tosado, David Murawinski** or **Mark Conroy and Keith Armstrong** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity at **547-5350** (the North District station's frontdesk) or **547-5719** (community service number). When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and the date and time of the message.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD **Narcotics Unit at 547-5391**. Ask to speak to the Narcotics Detectives in the North District. All calls will be strictly confidential.

A **Community Service Survey** form is reprinted below. The purpose of the form is to alert the police to particular chronic problems in our neighborhood. Please fill the form out and mail it to the North District at 282 Central Avenue. (You can remain anonymous.)

JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH DISTRICT
282 Central Avenue, Jersey City, 07307
547-5350: Front Desk
547-5719: Neighborhood Task Force

Community Service Survey

Name:_____
Address:_____
Home Phone:_____
Block Association:_____
Complaint & Observations for the period of_____

List the Locations for the following Problems:
Disorderly Groups:_____
Public Nuisances: _____
Narcotics Activity:_____
Unsafe/Unhealthy Sites: _____
Suspicious Activity:_____
Heavy Trucking: _____
Auto Thefts:_____
Burglaries:_____
Prostitution: _____
Gambling:_____
Other:_____
_____

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON
April 8th at 7:15 PM at the
HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER.

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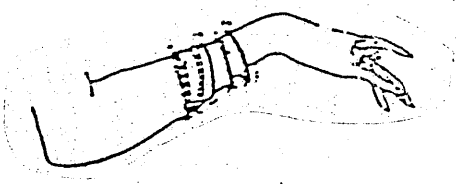

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Fax 201 330-1434

Meet Mayoral Candidates:
Gerald McCann, Bret Schundler & Jaime Vasquez
and their council teams on Tuesday, April 8 th at 7:15 PM

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

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FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Greg Brickey
Vice-chairperson

Kathy Packard
Secretary

Jack Rea
Treasurer

Carol Rebelowski
Sgt. at Arms

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, APRIL 8 th at 7:15 PM
LOCATION: THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

1) Mayoral Candidates: GERALD MCCANN
BRET SCHUNDLER
JAIME VASQUEZ
and their respective C & D Council candidates

2) Spring Activities Update

3) NID MANAGERS: Ufredo Merchan & Billy Rodolfos
POLICE OFFICERS: Scott Schnee & Lorenzo Tosado

April 12: Community Garden Clean-up in Riverview-Fisk Park at 10 AM

April 15: School Board Elections: Vote to keep politics out of our childrens' educations